

Resource Document

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Gallatin County Public Infrastructure and Services

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MAY 15, 2001

RESOURCE DOCUMENT 2: INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

Gallatin County Growth Policy “A Shared Vision for a New Century”

2 GALLATIN COUNTY PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

This resource supports the *Gallatin County Growth Policy* regarding public infrastructure and services, categorized in two groups: infrastructure development and maintenance, and public health and safety. In addition, this section identifies potential environmental hazards located throughout the county.

Gallatin County has an integrated network of services designed to enhance the safety and development of our community. Rapid growth throughout the 1990s has placed a large amount of pressure on the services provided by local government. Where possible, this report measures general trends and pressures on public infrastructure and services, while describing the agencies and planning organizations that administer, monitor, and provide public involvement for the upkeep and enhancement of local services and facilities.

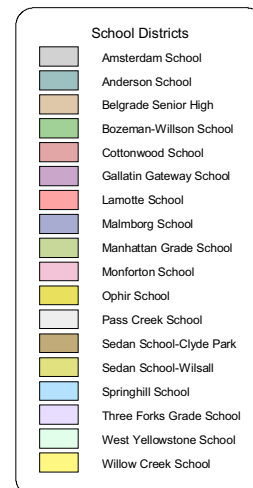
A brief summary follows discussing public infrastructure and services in Gallatin County and a glimpse of the current impacts of growth on these services. In addition to basic descriptions and measurements, this section provides a mechanism for other Gallatin County departments to include their comprehensive planning guidelines as a part of the *Gallatin County Growth Policy*. Essentially, this allows various specialized service plans to be adopted by this policy and incorporated into the planning process.

2.1 INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure includes the facilities and services needed to sustain industrial, residential, commercial, and other land use activities. Infrastructure in Gallatin County is the responsibility of many private and public departments, companies, agencies, and industries providing various power, telephone, road, transportation, water and sewer facilities and services. Educational services and infrastructure are provided by numerous different school districts. Infrastructure provided as a public service at the county level is minimal compared to the entire scope of infrastructure services.

Private organizations whose power sources and management centers are located outside the county operate all electrical power services in Gallatin County. Most transportation and

School Districts in Gallatin County



Gallatin County Planning Department
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communication services in Gallatin County, including railway, airline, telephone and internet, are also privately owned and operated. Public infrastructure services and facilities in Gallatin County mainly consist of management, maintenance and construction for roads, bridges, drinking water facilities and sewer facilities. However, these services are also operated by an array of municipal, county, state, federal, and private organizations.

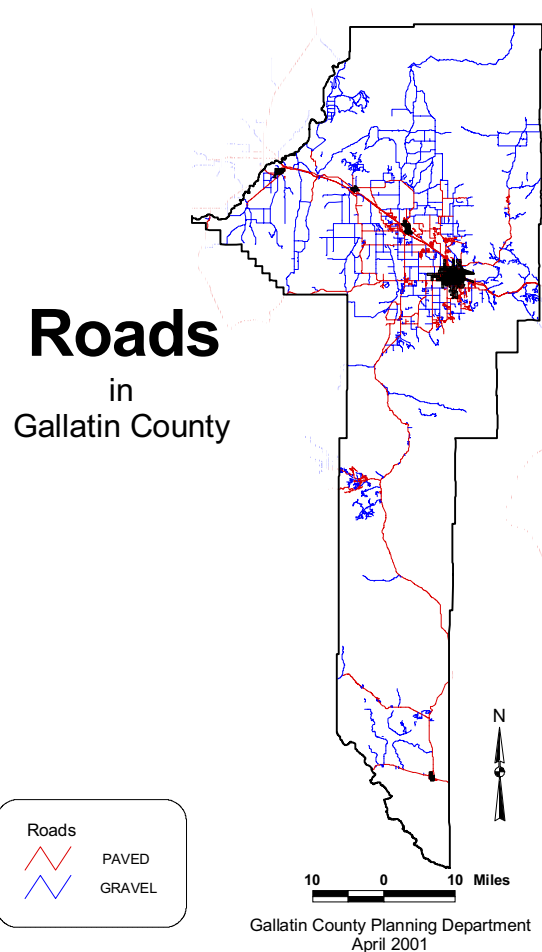
Specific infrastructure services provided by Gallatin County consist of road and bridge management, maintenance and construction, and procedural guidelines for the implementation of County Water and Sewer Districts.

2.1.1 Roads and Transportation

Gallatin County has maintained approximately 1300 miles of roads for the past several decades. Although the number of miles of roads maintained has not significantly changed, the amount of maintenance, construction and paving can greatly affect the costs and services provided by this department. Currently there are approximately 150 miles of paved roads, 850 miles of gravel roads and 300 miles of unimproved roads under county management.¹

In addition to roads maintained by Gallatin County, the Montana Department of Transportation (MDOT) manages approximately 44 miles of Interstate, 180 miles of primary state highway, 89 miles of secondary state highway, 14 miles of feeder routes and 4.5 miles of urban routes.² Public roads within subdivisions typically are privately maintained.

The Bozeman Area Transportation Coordinating Committee, through the Bozeman Department of Planning and Community Development, has been developing a transportation plan update for the Bozeman-Belgrade-Four Corners area, in coordination with Gallatin County and MDOT. This plan was the subject of public review in October-November, 2000, and consideration of adoption of a



¹ Gallatin County Road Department

² Montana Department of Transportation

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revised plan is expected in the current fiscal year. Gallatin County intends to initiate a county-wide transportation plan upon completion of the Bozeman area plan.

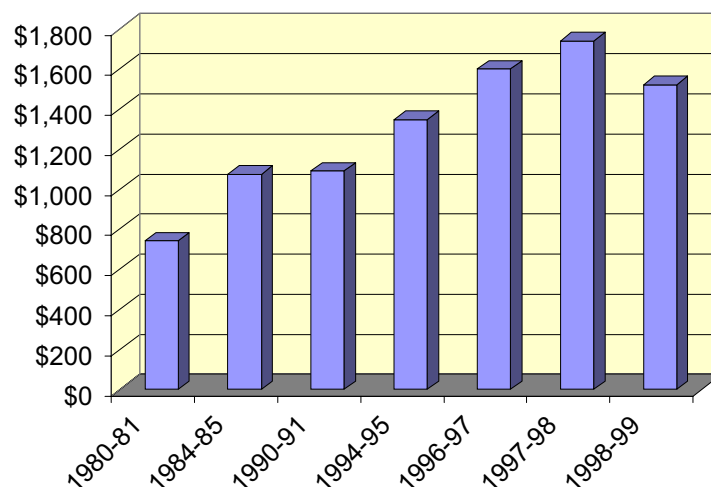
Organization:

Gallatin County Road Department:	Provides services and infrastructure development related to maintaining county roads and bridges.
Montana Department of Transportation:	Provides maintenance and construction services for state highways and interstate.
Bozeman Public Services Department	Provides maintenance and construction services for city road and bridges.

Impacts of Growth: A very descriptive measure of the impact of growth on the services provided by the Gallatin County Road Department is a measure of the cost per mile of county road. Although equipment, salaries and material increase in cost over time, dramatic spending increases in road and bridge development demonstrate the impacts of greater road miles traveled, increased vehicle trips, and higher demands for maintenance, construction, paving and other services.

In Gallatin County, the cost per mile of county road has more than doubled since 1980 and estimates for budget expenditures in FY 1999-2000 predict record spending levels. In 1999, maintaining one mile of county road was estimated to cost \$1,500.³

COST PER MILE OF ROAD IN GALLATIN COUNTY



Source: Gallatin County Planning Department

³ Gallatin County Planning Department analysis

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2.1.2 Wastewater Treatment:

Gallatin County does not directly provide wastewater treatment facilities as a public service, but facilitates procedural guidelines established by the state which assist the development of County Water and Sewer Districts. Water and Sewer Districts are not operated, maintained or funded by the county, but are administered by a local board of directors funded and supported by the individual district. Once established, these districts are subject to state requirements for operation and maintenance as well as a monitoring program.

Gallatin County currently has six water and sewer districts including: Willow Creek Sewer District #306, Amsterdam/Churchill Sewer District #307, Rae Subdivision Water & Sewer District #313, Riverside Water & Sewer District #310, Yellowstone Holiday Water & Sewer District #348, and Big Sky Water & Sewer District #363. Sewer and water districts that encompass land beyond a specific subdivision were described as “census designated places” for the 2000 census.

County/CDP*	POPULATION		
	2000 CENSUS	1990 CENSUS	% CHANGE 1990 to 2000
GALLATIN COUNTY	67,831	50,463	34.42
Amsterdam-Churchill CDP	727	--	--
Big Sky CDP (partial population in Gallatin Co.)	1,033	--	--
Four Corners CDP	1,828	--	--
Willow Creek CDP	209	--	--

* CDPs were newly designated for 2000 census

In addition to county services, city treatment facilities are present in Bozeman, Belgrade, Manhattan, Three Forks, and West Yellowstone, and several small private wastewater treatment facilities are located in various subdivisions throughout the county.

Bozeman uses the most advanced treatment processes to remove pollutants from wastewater, and discharges into the East Gallatin River. Belgrade stores wastewater in lagoons and disposes of residue on land after it has been aerated and clarified, while Manhattan is permitted to discharge treated sewage into the Gallatin River.⁴ Three Forks manages a lift station that pumps wastewater to lagoons which are emptied to an evaporation pond or discharged into the Madison River, and West Yellowstone operates an extended aeration system that routes wastewater through a series of treatment cells.⁵

⁴ The Gallatin Watershed Sourcebook

⁵ Three Forks wastewater manager, West Yellowstone Public Works Superintendent

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Organization:

County Water & Sewer Districts:	Individual districts administered by a site-specific board of directors.
Bozeman Public Facilities:	Wastewater treatment is a division of the city Public Works Department, managed by the Public Works Director and a Wastewater Treatment Plant Manager.
Belgrade Public Facilities:	The Belgrade Director of Public Works manages wastewater treatment.
Manhattan Public Facilities:	The town superintendent administers wastewater treatment.
Three Forks Public Facilities:	A wastewater manager operates lagoons and discharge.
West Yellowstone Public Facilities:	Wastewater treatment is managed by the West Yellowstone Public Works Superintendent.

2.1.3 Water Supply:

Although Gallatin County does not provide infrastructure services related to water supply, county municipalities do provide access to public water. Rural households and businesses are typically supplied by individual wells. The largest municipal water supplier in the county is the City of Bozeman, supplying approximately 26,000 residents in 1998. Bozeman is supported by surface water from Hyalite, Bozeman and Lyman Creeks. Belgrade, Three Forks and Big Sky provide domestic water from groundwater wells, while Manhattan receives its supply through wells and a spring.

In addition to major municipal water supplies and individual wells, there are approximately 30 other community water systems that supply about 4,000 people in Gallatin County. These community systems are private well systems that connect to multiple users.

Current water supplies in the Bozeman area are expected to fulfill demand until 2042 if all measures remain constant.⁶ Large amounts of groundwater can be found within the Gallatin Valley, and levels have not changed significantly since 1950. Approximately 130 reservoirs are located throughout the county, and Hyalite has been one of DNRC’s most consistent water suppliers throughout the state.

⁶ The Gallatin Watershed Sourcebook

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2.2 PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Gallatin County provides many services for local public health and safety. In addition to supporting emergency and protective services such as fire protection, 911 administration, law enforcement protection, and detention center facilities, Gallatin County provides legal services for county government through the office of the County Attorney as well as medical services, environmental protection, and health education programs through the Gallatin City-County Health Department. These programs and services are designed to ensure high standards of public health and safety throughout the county and have responded to the increased demands caused by growth and population expansion.

2.2.1 Health Services:

Gallatin County provides public health, sanitation, and water quality services through the Gallatin City-County Health Department and the Local Water Quality District. The Gallatin City-County Health Department is divided into community health care services and environmental/sanitation services provided by the Health and Human Services Department and the Environmental Health Services Department. Services are offered by these organizations to ensure standards of public safety and to effectively mitigate deleterious impacts to the health of the environment and community.

2.2.1.A Health and Human Services:

Health and human services in Gallatin County consist of several pregnancy and infant/child programs and educational clinics, immunization sessions and follow-up programs including home visits. The county health department strives to improve citizen health by applying public health principles in order to:

- Reduce the occurrence of preventable disease
- Improve the health of children
- Foster relationships between health services and public and private agencies
- Maintain core public health services
- Protect and improve health throughout an individuals life-span

Organization:

Gallatin City-County Health Board: A nine-member governing board including 7 residents, one County Commissioner or representative, and one City Commissioner or representative.

Health Officer: Oversees the operation of the two divisions of county health services

Health and Human Services Director: Oversees the operation of the Health and Human Services Division